

MEETING NOTES
TASK GROUP #2- ACCESS ROUTES/MAPPING
NOVEMBER 22, 1999

Task Group Members Present: Ileene Anderson, Steven Carpenter, Mike Connor, Jeri Ferguson, Sandy Gallagher, Red Grandell, Gerry Hillier, Grant Jensen, Harold Johnson, Jim Johnson, Becky Jones, Peter Kiriakos, Paul Kober, Lowell Landowski, John Rains, Bob Rudnik, Hector Villalobos, Dave Wash, Ed Waldheim.

Task Group #2 had been assigned two sets of topics to address by the Supergroup- 1) identifying mapping needs for the process and 2) recommending a network of access routes that is consistent with the conservation measures adopted in the Plan and addresses commercial and recreational needs of interest groups in the region.

Agenda Item #1 Mapping Needs

Bill Haigh listed the 3x3 maps that the Mohave team was preparing for the group. These include:

- Desert Tortoise Occurrence Map- denoting raw data
- Existing Conservation Areas
- Proposed Conservation Areas
- Existing Grazing Allotments (will show improvements and utility corridors)
- Raw inventories of access routes
- Recommended BLM access routes (will denote public lands and private lands)
- Disturbed lands-structures, residential and commercial areas

The group requested that there be some quantification of tortoise and other critical species numbers for areas that are sensitive, even if the maps cannot denote the specific site. They also requested that staff provide 7½ minute quads for the region. The Task Group will cut and paste together the quads for the areas that are under consideration at each meeting. The Group also proposed that they be provided transparencies to be able to write on as they began their work and also to show some of the overlap between various maps. Staff were also asked to provide compact discs of maps as available to assist members in preparing for meetings. The representative from Edward Air Force Base agreed to assist the group in map reproduction.

The group generated a list of additional mapping needs:

- the original desert plan map
- public versus private boundaries and access routes
- easements; public vs private land boundaries
- mining claims
- utility corridors
- DOQs
- guzzlers and other water developments

Agenda Item #2 Issues to be Addressed by the Task Group

The Task Group then generated a list of issues that would have to be addressed as they reviewed access routes and made recommendations for the West Mojave Plan. These included constraints to be considered in deciding where access was appropriate or not as well as types of policies that would need to be developed.

- 1) specific considerations relative to public access across private land- including appropriate signage and selection of open vs. closed designations
- 2) adopt the EPA system- encourage, prohibit, allow
- 3) take local community needs into consideration in making designations (legal obligations, environmental justice issues, e.g. subsistence hunting...)
- 4) look for areas with restoration opportunities in developing the access routes
- 5) need to look at routes and how they are used in making decisions- if only sporadic use, it may be acceptable to keep open
- 6) Assurances - manage access routes against proliferation
- 7) Management regimes
- 8) Enforcement
- 9) Monitoring
- 10) System for assessing our success (re-openers)
- 11) Look at wildlife corridors and impacts- not just roads
12. PM10 issues re species and CEQA
- 13) pay special attention to springs and water conservation issues
- 14) Has to be a nexus between actions on routes and species concerns
- 15 Transportation system interface
16. Interface with other Plans applicable to West Mojave and adjacent areas
17. RS2477 status (adjudication)

Agenda Item #3 Agenda for Next Meeting

The Task Group requested the following information in advance of the next meeting:

- whole route inventory
- BLM proposal
- 7½ minute quads for the El Paso area
- Other information relevant to consideration of the El Paso area

The Task Group decided to begin with one area as a "trial" exercise and then decide how they might proceed with other areas. They recognized the need to have both the whole area perspective in making decisions as well as the details of smaller geographic areas. The Group will also decide how to involve more local interests in the future as they develop their recommendations. Additional interest representatives from the El Paso area will not be invited to the next meeting, since the Group wanted to gain some experience working together first. The group members reiterated the importance of working together with other task groups and having their recommendations re access routes be in compliance with agency criteria and the

recovery plan.

Agenda Item #4 Schedule; Housekeeping

April 3rd is unrealistic for completion of a recommendation on access routes, but the Task Group wants to keep this date as a target. Gerry Hillier agreed to be the contact person for the Task Group and will make a presentation to the Steering Committee. The Group will likely rotate contact persons into the future.

Next Meeting: January 10 9 a.m. Victorville